

Appl. No. 10/734,843
Amdt. dated November 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 15, 2006

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Amendments to the Specification:

1.S.
7/5/07
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line ³⁴~~74~~ with the following amended paragraph:

-- Alternatively, the stretchable material 10 can be formed from two outer layers with a plurality of elastic strands sandwiched therebetween. The elastic strands can be formed from LYCRA[®]. LYCRA[®] is a registered trademark of E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co., having an office at 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898. The elastic strands can be aligned approximately parallel to one another or be angled or skewed relative to one another. The elastic strands can also be uniformly or randomly spaced apart from one another. The elastic strands can vary in shape, size, configuration, and/or length. The diameter and/or cross-sectional configuration of the elastic strands, the decitex (weight in grams per 10,000 meters of a strand) of the elastic strands, and the tension imparted into the elastic strands can all be varied to suit one's particular product needs. The elastic strands can have a round, semi-circular, square, rectangular, oval or some other geometrical configuration. The elastic strands can overlap, intersect or crisscross at least one other elastic strand. The various ways of positioning, orienting, and adhering the elastic strands to the two outer layers are well known to those skilled in the art. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In Fig. 2, the absorbent article 18 is shown as it would appear just prior to being pulled up around a user's torso. In Figs. 3 and 4, the absorbent article 18 is depicted in an open position solely for the purpose of better showing the various components. In Figs. 3 and 4, the open pant-like absorbent article 18 has a transverse central axis X--X that corresponds with the longitudinal centerline X--X shown in Fig. 1. The absorbent article 18 also has a longitudinal central axis Y--Y, and a vertical central axis Z--Z. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 34 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The elastic band 44 can extend outward, in the Y--Y direction, from the front panel 20 a distance of from between 1 millimeter (mm) to a distance equal to about 75% of the width (w) of the elastic band 44. Desirably, the elastic band 44 extends outward from the front panel 20 by a distance that ranges from between about 2 mm to about 75 ~~millimeters~~ mm. More desirably, the elastic band 44 extends outward from the front panel 20 by a distance that ranges from between about 3 mm to about 50 mm. Most desirably, the elastic band 44 extends outward from the front panel 20 by a distance of at least about 10 ~~millimeters~~ mm. --